

***Town of New Fairfield
Board of Finance
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812***

MINUTES

**Board of Finance Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 2009
7:30 PM**

New Fairfield High School Library

Members present:

Joe Hart, Chairman
Lucy DiRocco
Jane Landers
Al Mardis
Wes Marsh
Tom Wahlig
Art Azzarito, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate
Tony Sanches, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Dr. Joseph Castagnola, Superintendent of Schools
Alicia Roy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
John Hodge, First Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Craig McClain, Director of Management Services
Phi Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mike Chapleau, High School Assistant Principal
Scott Rohwedder, High School Assistant Principal
Diane Hartman Chesley, Middle School Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Carrie Kilian, Meeting House Assistant Principal
Wendy Seeley, Consolidated School Principal
Lynn Fichtel, Consolidated School Assistant Principal
Aimee Turner, Director of Elementary Special Education
Kim Culkin, Director of Secondary Special Education
Kim Hanson, BOE Chairman
Karen Chance, BOE member
Ken Chapman, BOE member
Ralph Langham, BOE member
Ron Lyons, BOE member

Call To Order Chairman Joe Hart called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman Joe Hart read a letter into record submitted by BOF Alternate Art Azzarito from the law firm of Collins, Hannafin, Garamella, Jaber & Tuozzolo dated January 20, 2004 to then BOF Chairman John Hodge regarding the role of the BOF regarding appropriations. (Attached to the minutes)

Board member Lucy DiRocco noted that she requested a DVD copy of a Board of Education meeting in March 2007 and was told that the tapes were destroyed. There was a discussion of the necessary length of time to keep recordings.

Public Comment

Resident Roger Wise spoke of state statues regarding the retention of recordings.

Selectman Ron Oliveri spoke of the status of the economy in New Fairfield and noted that New Fairfield is in better shape than surrounding towns.

Resident Rudy Behrens spoke of the status of the economy.

Board of Education member Ralph Langham thanked the Board of Finance for all their hard work with the budget.

Resident George Cushing spoke about the school building projects and asked about upgrading the high school and installing pre-fabricated buildings at Meeting House Hill School.

Approval of Minutes

Lucy DiRocco made a motion to table the approval of the minutes of the April 6, 2009 meeting in order to check on more information. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion and vote concerning previously approved bonding of fire trucks and Senior Center project

Board of Finance member Al Mardis spoke of bonding vs. paying cash for the fire trucks. Mr. Mardis suggested that the BOF recommend forgo bonding and pay for the fire trucks with the general fund surplus. There was a lengthy discussion regarding cash vs. bonding. It was suggested that the BOF get together in the near future to come up with a policy and procedure for future apparatus.

Discussion and vote on 2009/2010 recommended budget

Chairman Joe Hart thanked everyone for all their hard work with the budget process. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joe Castagnola spoke of adjustments and proposed adjustments to the 2009-2010 budget. Dr. Castagnola presented the Board of Finance with \$972,432.00 worth of proposed cuts for the BOE budget. There was a discussion of stimulus money. Board of Finance members asked questions of Dr. Castagnola and Director of Management Services Craig McClain.

First Selectman John Hodge spoke of the proposed budget for the town side. First Selectman Hodge spoke of proposed cuts and noted that all three selectmen voted to endorse these cuts. There was a discussion of the proposed cuts for the town side. Chairman Joe Hart gave a schedule of proposed cuts. Members of the Board of Finance asked questions of First Selectman Hodge regarding the proposed budget.

Recess

Joe Hart made a motion to take a ten minute recess at 10:10pm. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Al Mardis made a motion to come back from recess at 10:21pm. Joe Hart seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

2009/2010 recommended budget (con't)

There was a discussion of the medical insurance fund.

Joe Hart made a motion to make cuts totaling \$1,156,874. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Joe Hart made a motion to take a recess at 10:45pm in order to calculate the proposed Mil Rate. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Joe Hart made a motion to come back from recess at 11:16pm. Lucy DiRocco seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Joe Hart made a motion to recommend to a Town Meeting a BOF recommended budget consisting of the following: Municipal Expenditures totaling \$9,646,068 from the General Fund, Municipal Expenditures from the Capital and Nonrecurring Fund of \$485,048 and \$903,194 from other Governmental Funds and Educational Expenditures from the General Fund and Capital and Nonrecurring Fund totaling \$35,288,515 which results in a Mil Rate decrease of .03 or 20.61 Mils. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment

Resident Rudy Behrens spoke of the school renovation project

Selectman Tom Corbett thanked all the members of the Board of Finance for all their hard work.

Resident Mary Behrens thanked the BOF for all their hard work and complimented them on how well they work together.

Board member comments

Members of the Board of Finance thanked everyone involved with the budget process.

Adjournment

Joe Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25pm. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)